

AUGUST 17, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary  
(Kansas City, Missouri)

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

**The President's Meeting with Black Delegates**

The President mostly circulated and shook hands and spoke only briefly, no more than a minute, and then answered questions.

The President praised Transportation Secretary William Coleman, Senator Edward Brooke and John C. Calhoun, Special Assistant to the President for Minority Affairs, all of whom were present.

The President said, more or less verbatim, "I understand some here support my opposition. But we are all Republicans, and after the Convention we will all go on to win the election as Republicans." There were cheers.

In response to a question, the President described unemployment among black teenagers as "one of the most serious problems we have. It's unbelievable and unnecessary." The President said that he, Vice President Rockefeller and the Domestic Council are all working hard on the problem.

There was some confusion at the beginning of the meeting about admitting black delegates supporting Reagan. When the President heard about this he said, "I plan to unify the party." He wanted all black delegates and alternates admitted. They were.

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